

JGO

Representative Wayne N. Aspinall (D., Colo.)

29 June 1970

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear 

I am enclosing several by-line articles from the Washington press and from the Great Falls, Montana Tribune concerning CIA involvement in Cambodia. Although the Central Intelligence Agency has made no public comment, Senator Mansfield, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and Majority Leader of the Senate who is fully informed on Agency matters, has publicly stated that the Agency did not play any part in Prince Sihanouk's ouster. The figure of 20,000 CIA personnel in Cambodia, set forth in your letter of June 21, 1970, is without foundation.

Both the budget and the number of personnel employed by the Central Intelligence Agency are classified and are not available for release. I can assure you, however, that the Agency is the subject of detailed oversight both in the Executive Branch and in the Congress. In addition to the supervision which it receives directly from the President and the National Security Council, the Central Intelligence Agency is responsive to the supervision of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (the membership of which I am enclosing), and its budget receives detailed attention by the Bureau of the Budget.

In the Congress, subcommittees of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate keep themselves informed with regard to the Agency. I am also advised by my colleagues that the appropriations for the CIA are given as close a scrutiny as any agency in the Government, notwithstanding the fact that this must be done outside of the public eye.

On the assumption that you would be interested in the mission of the Agency and the statutory authority under which it operates, I am enclosing a pamphlet on the Agency.

I trust that this information will be helpful to you.